

---

# FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

---

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

---



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE

December 15, 1999

### NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

Hedley Burrell  
(202) 208-0680

### NEW DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FOR FERC

Chairman James J. Hoecker today announced the appointment of Katie Hirning as Director of the Office of External Affairs at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Ms. Hirning was most recently Deputy Director of Vice President Gore's National Partnership for Reinventing Government. She previously served as Chief Information Officer at FERC, from early 1998 until joining the Partnership about a year later.

As external affairs director, she replaces Rebecca F. Schaffer, who is leaving the Commission.

"We are very pleased to have Katie Hirning back in the FERC family. She knows the Commission as well as the workings of the Congress and the Executive Branch," said Chairman Hoecker. "She is a topflight administrator who understands the government, business, and the press. I look forward to working with her as we take on the challenge of building bridges to our customers and constituencies, to use a FERC First term. Welcome back, Katie!"

Before first joining FERC in 1998, Ms. Hirning held a variety of positions in industry, and has developed technology organizations into dynamic growth companies. She was an executive with such companies as NewGeneration Software, Inc., and Sterling Software Corporation, both of Sacramento, California, and Dun & Bradstreet Corporation in New York. She was also an independent consultant.

In 1994 and 1996, Ms. Hirning was also a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives from California.

R-99-82

(more)

(2)

She holds a bachelor of science degree from California State University in Sacramento and a master's of business administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco.

FERC's Office of External Affairs includes Press Services, Congressional, Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, Executive Secretariat and Public Inquiries.

R-99-82

(30)